AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following amended title:

On page 1, before line 3, please add the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

On page 1, before line 10, please add the following:

2. Description of the Related Art

On page 3, before line 16, please add the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 15, before line 5, please add the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 15, before line 5, please add the following:

Fig. 1 graphically illustrates functions k' [N/(N+S)] and g' [N/(N+S)] used in echo and noise reduction.

Fig. 2 is illustrates a functional overview of echo correction consistent with the present invention.

Fig. 3 illustrates a functional overview of echo and noise correction consistent with the present invention.

On page 15, before line 8, please add the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE, NON-LIMITING EMBODIMENTS

OF THE INVENTION

On page 15, please replace the second full paragraph with the following amended

paragraph:

~~The figure~~Fig. 2 shows an actual embodiment <u>consistent with the invention. A</u>

<u>measuring and/or estimating section 2 continuously measures the power value of a noise level N</u>

<u>in a currently used telecommunications channel 1. The echo canceller 5 sets continuously and</u>

<u>automatically a degree of reduction of the echo signals measured on echo detector 3 as</u>

<u>represented by function d. The reduction of the echo signals is in dependence on the noise level</u>

<u>N of the telecommunications channel 1. The dependence is based on a predefined function h(N)</u>

<u>in function section 4. Fig. 3 shows an embodiment of the invention where the noise reduction</u>

<u>and the echo reduction are controlled separately by function d in function section 5 and function</u>

<u>g in function section 6, respectively. Fig. 1 illustrates an</u> example for the function k' [N/(N+S)]

and <u>an example for the function</u> g'[N/(N+S)]. <u>Examples of noise and echo dampening using</u>

<u>these functions are given below.</u>

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure.

Please add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method for reducing echo signals in telecommunications systems for the transmission of wanted acoustic signals, particularly human speech, in which the presence of echo signals is detected and/or predicted and the detected and/or predicted echo signals are subsequently suppressed or reduced. ~~is characterized in that the~~ The power value of the noise level N in the currently used telecommunications channel is continuously measured and/or estimated, and ~~that~~ the degree of reduction of the echo signals to be currently effected is set continuously and automatically, in dependence on the current noise level N, according to a predefined function h(N). ~~Reduction of the echo signals can be thereby effected, inexpensively and with simplest means, so as to produce an overall acoustic perception of the transmitted telecommunications signal which sounds as comfortable as possible to the human ear, avoiding the disadvantage, compared with the prior art, that in the case of relatively loud, clearly audible noise and simultaneously large reduction of echo into the background noise due to the echo suppression, the occurrence of transient echo peaks causes "holes" to be "punched" into the otherwise uniform background noise, resulting in what is perceived, in the case of the known methods, as a disagreeable modulation of the transmitted telecommunications signal in the speech pauses.~~